INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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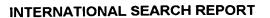
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H05B41/282 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H05B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Retevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ' 1-3,5US 2001/035721 A1 (HALBERSTADT JOHAN CHRISTIAAN) 1 November 2001 (2001-11-01) page 2, paragraph 13 -page 3, paragraph 17 page 4, paragraph 42 -page 5, paragraph Α 49; figures 1-5 1,2 US 4 277 728 A (STEVENS CARLILE R) X 7 July 1981 (1981-07-07) abstract; figures 1,4A,4B column 3, line 58 -column 4, line 10 column 5, line 43 -column 7, line 63 column 8, line 38-46 1,4 US 5 877 595 A (NERONE LOUIS R) Α 2 March 1999 (1999-03-02) column 3, line 43-48; figures 1,4,7 column 7, line 16-32 -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents : *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. 'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 23/10/2003 10 October 2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Ferla, M

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